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SUBJECT: BAGHDAD CONSULAR LEADERSHIP DAY 2009

11. Baghdad's Consular Section marked the 2009 Consular Leadership Day with a series of events and programs that highlighted the Section's teambuilding inside the DOS community and beyond. The day began by concluding a two-day Military Passport Acceptance Agent training program for five U.S. Army paralegals who traveled from bases as far away as Tallil in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar province. Thanking the Section for ensuring that American military personnel are able to enjoy much needed R&R abroad, Sgt. Freddie Scott observed, "I have gained a new respect for the duties of consular officers and diplomats and the sacrifices they make."

22. The Section also met with Ambassador Crocker, who presented a departing LES member with a Meritorious Honor Award for her outstanding work in the Section's ACS Unit. The leadership program culminated with a formal roundtable discussion with Leadership and Management Training Division representatives about the challenges unique to consular work in Iraq. While the Section members lamented their separation from their loved ones, they were upbeat about their working and living conditions since moving to the New Embassy Compound and deeply proud of their service at this historic period of transition in Iraq.

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